

REMARKS**INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 16 and 22 have been amended. Claims 1-32 are pending and under consideration. Claims 17-21 and 24-32 are allowed.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-16, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Alon et al. (U.S. Patent 5,701,283).

Independent claim 1 recites a device to "receive an optical signal reflected from a single track on an optical recording medium." Thus, as shown in present Figure 2, the optical detection device 204 receives an optical signal reflected from disc 200 and divides this signal into multiple signals A, B, C, D. Claim 1 also recites that the less degraded signals are selected "from among the multiple signals corresponding to sections of the optical detection device." Thus, the less degraded signals are selected from the divided signals A, B, C, D.

In contrast, Alon et al. discloses simultaneously reading multiple tracks. This reference discloses impinging light upon a single pixel 62, to generate a charge, accumulating the charge to the next pixel 62 as the optical disc 100 moves, and then sensing the accumulated charge that is transferred out of the last row of pixels 62 in the same column. Alon et al., Column 6, line 59 to Column 7, line 15.

Claim 2 depends from independent claim 1 and recites "selecting a combination of signals corresponding to sections of the optical detection device arranged in the radial direction."

Claim 3 depends from independent claim 1 and recites "selecting a combination of signals corresponding to sections of the optical detection device arranged diagonally."

It is respectfully submitted that Alon et al. does not disclose combining signals in the radial direction or diagonally. Instead, as discussed above, this reference adds charges in the column, or tangential direction, but does not combine any radial or diagonal directions.

Independent claim 12 recites features similar to those recited in claims 2 and 3 regarding combination in the radial direction and diagonally.

Independent claim 14 recites "an optical detection device ... to divide the received signal into multiple signals." This claim also recites a detector to detect "outputs corresponding to a combination of signals corresponding to sections of the photodetector arranged in a radial direction, and/or outputs corresponding to a combination of signals corresponding to sections of

the photodetector arranged diagonally.”

Independent claim 16 recites a detector to detect outputs “corresponding to a combination of signals corresponding to sections of the photodetector arranged in a radial direction, and/or outputs corresponding to a combination of signals corresponding to sections of the photodetector arranged diagonally.”

Independent claim 22 recites “dividing signals received from a single track on an optical detection device in response to a reflected signal.”

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 17-21 and 24-32 are allowed.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

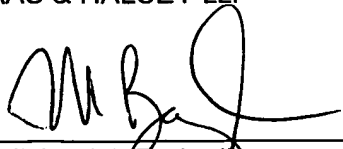
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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